



The world is wide!

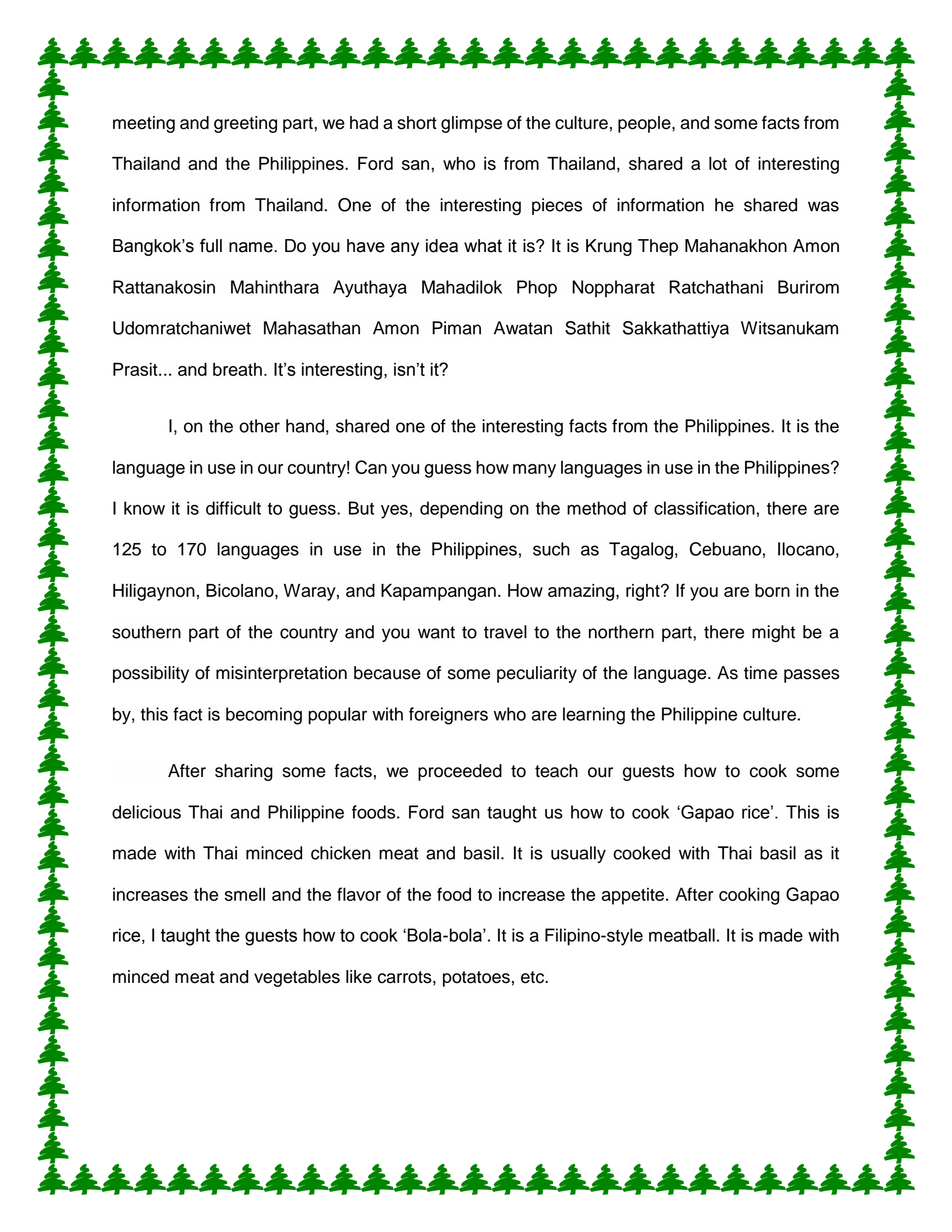
by: Wendy

“Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity”- Audre Lorde

In life, we may encounter people from different races, ages, skin color, culture, etc. Despite these differences, we can learn from one another, but first, we must have a level of understanding about each other in order to facilitate collaboration and cooperation.

Yasu Kogen Kinen no Mori in cooperation with Minamisha Communication Café headed by Mako Obu, organized a 3-day English Camp held in Kushigi, Chikuzen-machi last December 2020. The 3-day English camp aimed to strengthen the relationship between Japanese and foreigners using the English language as the medium of communication. The theme of the event was “The world is wide!”. Japanese families who live near the town joined the event. Aside from strengthening the connection between Japanese and foreigners, the event aimed to give Japanese people some unforgettable experiences from other countries like Thailand and the Philippines.

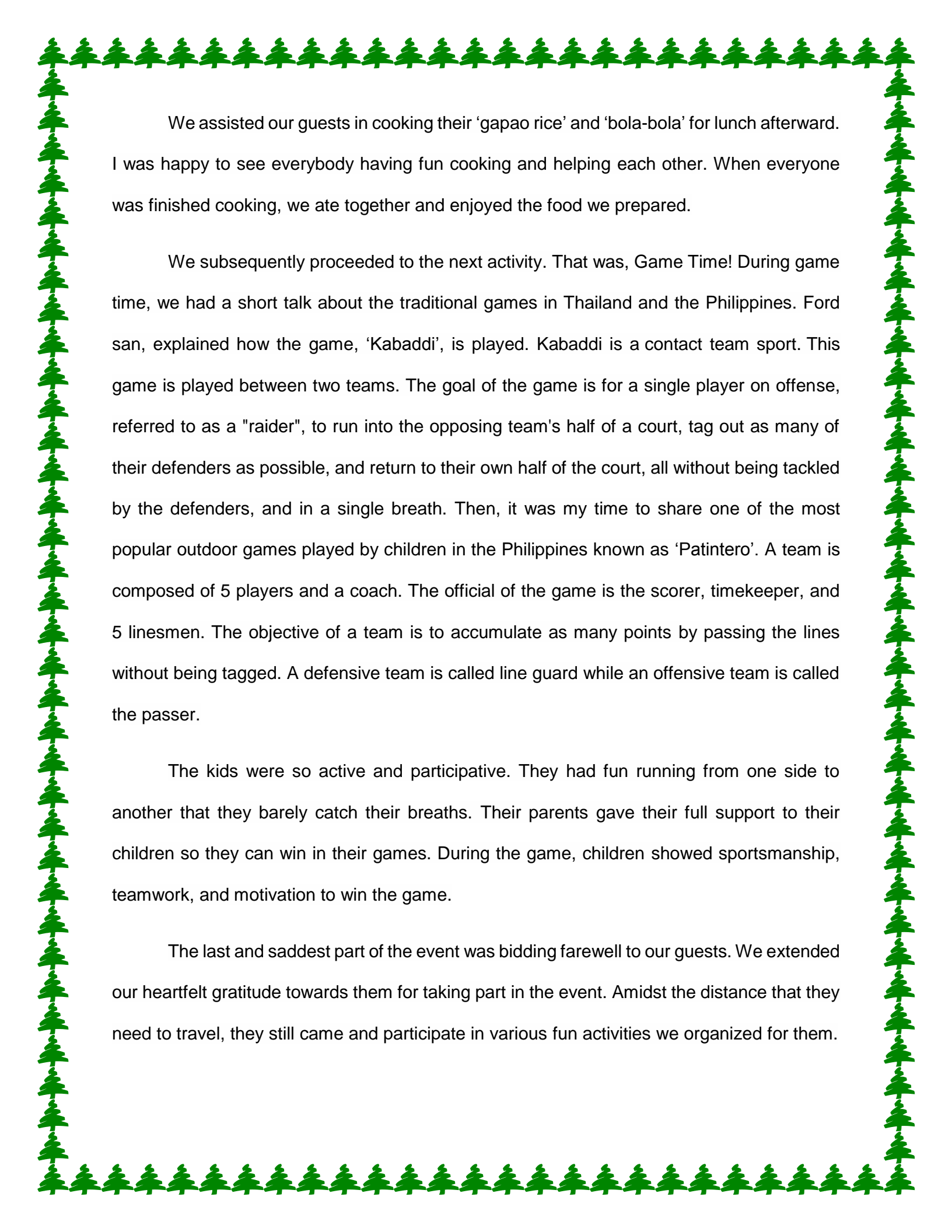
The program started with a warm greeting from the event organizer. After welcoming everyone, staffs introduced themselves to the guests. It was followed by a greeting lesson from me. I enjoyed teaching our guests how to greet and introduce themselves to a new friend using the English language. After that, we shared with our guests the official languages in Thailand and the Philippines. The fun part was, we let our guests engage in Thailand and the Philippines’ culture starting with the language. We had fun meeting each other by greeting and introducing ourselves in four languages- Japanese, English, Thai, and Tagalog. After the



meeting and greeting part, we had a short glimpse of the culture, people, and some facts from Thailand and the Philippines. Ford san, who is from Thailand, shared a lot of interesting information from Thailand. One of the interesting pieces of information he shared was Bangkok's full name. Do you have any idea what it is? It is Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayuthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchathani Burirom Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit... and breath. It's interesting, isn't it?

I, on the other hand, shared one of the interesting facts from the Philippines. It is the language in use in our country! Can you guess how many languages in use in the Philippines? I know it is difficult to guess. But yes, depending on the method of classification, there are 125 to 170 languages in use in the Philippines, such as Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon, Bicolano, Waray, and Kapampangan. How amazing, right? If you are born in the southern part of the country and you want to travel to the northern part, there might be a possibility of misinterpretation because of some peculiarity of the language. As time passes by, this fact is becoming popular with foreigners who are learning the Philippine culture.

After sharing some facts, we proceeded to teach our guests how to cook some delicious Thai and Philippine foods. Ford san taught us how to cook 'Gapao rice'. This is made with Thai minced chicken meat and basil. It is usually cooked with Thai basil as it increases the smell and the flavor of the food to increase the appetite. After cooking Gapao rice, I taught the guests how to cook 'Bola-bola'. It is a Filipino-style meatball. It is made with minced meat and vegetables like carrots, potatoes, etc.

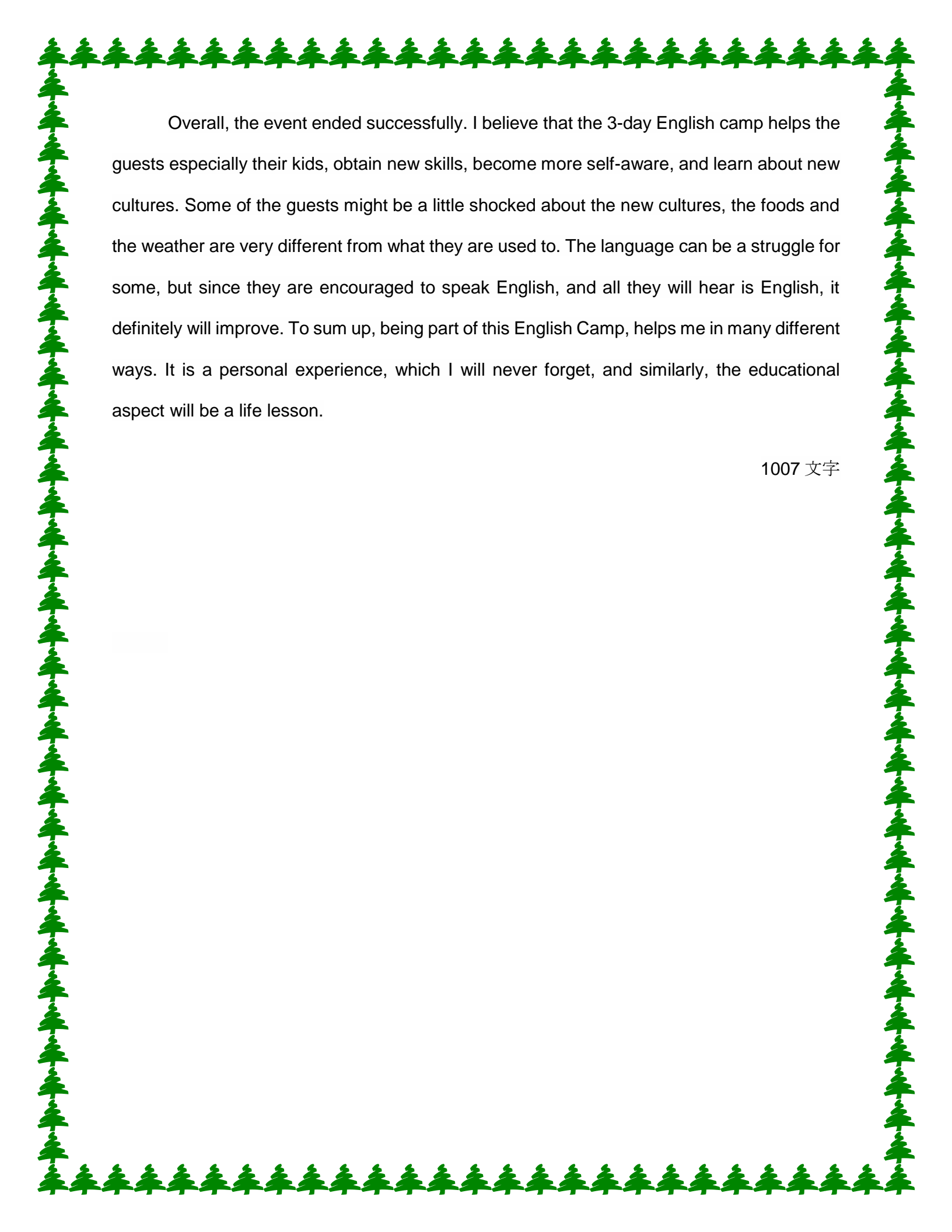


We assisted our guests in cooking their 'gapao rice' and 'bola-bola' for lunch afterward. I was happy to see everybody having fun cooking and helping each other. When everyone was finished cooking, we ate together and enjoyed the food we prepared.

We subsequently proceeded to the next activity. That was, Game Time! During game time, we had a short talk about the traditional games in Thailand and the Philippines. Ford san, explained how the game, 'Kabaddi', is played. Kabaddi is a contact team sport. This game is played between two teams. The goal of the game is for a single player on offense, referred to as a "raider", to run into the opposing team's half of a court, tag out as many of their defenders as possible, and return to their own half of the court, all without being tackled by the defenders, and in a single breath. Then, it was my time to share one of the most popular outdoor games played by children in the Philippines known as 'Patintero'. A team is composed of 5 players and a coach. The official of the game is the scorer, timekeeper, and 5 linesmen. The objective of a team is to accumulate as many points by passing the lines without being tagged. A defensive team is called line guard while an offensive team is called the passer.

The kids were so active and participative. They had fun running from one side to another that they barely catch their breaths. Their parents gave their full support to their children so they can win in their games. During the game, children showed sportsmanship, teamwork, and motivation to win the game.

The last and saddest part of the event was bidding farewell to our guests. We extended our heartfelt gratitude towards them for taking part in the event. Amidst the distance that they need to travel, they still came and participate in various fun activities we organized for them.



Overall, the event ended successfully. I believe that the 3-day English camp helps the guests especially their kids, obtain new skills, become more self-aware, and learn about new cultures. Some of the guests might be a little shocked about the new cultures, the foods and the weather are very different from what they are used to. The language can be a struggle for some, but since they are encouraged to speak English, and all they will hear is English, it definitely will improve. To sum up, being part of this English Camp, helps me in many different ways. It is a personal experience, which I will never forget, and similarly, the educational aspect will be a life lesson.

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